

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 09428 292028Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 OES-07 EB-08  
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 ( ISO ) W  
-----004645 300158Z /70

P 291656Z NOV 77

FM MEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2644

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 09428

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SP, AL, SS

SUBJECT: SPANISH FISHERMEN FREED BY POLISARIO

REF: MADRID 9289 (NOTAL)

1. AS REPORTED IN THE SPANISH PRESS NOVEMBER 29, THE  
THREE SPANISH FISHERMEN SEIZED BY THE POLISARIO WERE FREED  
IN ALGIERS IN A CEREMONY AT POLISARIO HEADQUARTERS.  
PRESENT WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS SPANISH LEFTIST  
PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, BUT NOT OF THE PSOE, WHICH  
HAD FIGURED SO PROMINENTLY IN THE EARLY STAGES THAT  
OTHERS BEGAN TO GRIPE. PRESUMABLY TO DOWNPLAY THE  
PSOE ABSENCE, POLISARIO LEADER OMAR MANSUR (ACCORDING  
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TO PRESS) EXPRESSED SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO THE PARTY  
OF "OUR FRIEND FELIPE GONZALEZ".

2. ON THEIR RETURN TO MADRID LATER THE SAME DAY, THE  
RELEASED FISHERMEN IMPRESSED REPORTERS HERE WITH THEIR  
UNANIMITY IN PRAISING THE "FRATERNAL" TREATMENT THEY  
HAD ENJOYED IN POLISARIO HANDS, AND IN VOWING SUPPORT FOR

THE POLISARIO POSITION. THEY PROMISED NOT TO FISH OFF THE SAHARA UNTIL THE GOS HAD AN AGREEMENT WITH "THE SAHRAWI PEOPLE", AND ONE OF THEM DECLARED HIS WILLINGNESS TO DIE FOR THE POLISARIO.

3. MADRID DAILY ABC REPORTED FROM NEW YORK THAT POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVES ACTIVE IN THE "ROOMS AND HALLS" OF THE UN CLAIMED FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER SAHARAN WATERS AND WARNED SPANISH FISHERMEN WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO FISH THEM.

4. IN MADRID, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASED A BRIEF STATEMENT EXPRESSING PLEASURE AT THE RELEASE OF THE FISHERMEN AND CONDEMNING THE "DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY... CONTRARY TO EVERY NORM OF INTERNATIONAL CONDUCT".

5. A KNOWLEDGEABLE MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE POLISARIO HAD BEEN IN SOME DOUBT ABOUT JUST HOW AND TO WHOM TO RELEASE THE FISHERMEN. CLEARLY, THEY OPTED TO SPREAD THE CREDIT AS EVENLY AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE SPANISH LEFT, NOT OMITTING THE PRO-POLISARIO "ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF THE SAHARA". STABLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FISHERMEN, PRISONERS RELEASE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, EFIS, SP, AG, SS, WI, POLISARIO  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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